



**"Halloween," October 31st** can be translated as **"Eve of All Hallows."**

We all know trick-or-treaters ask for candy door-to-door in costumes ranging from adorable to frightening, but this celebration does not have roots in either candy or costumes. Long ago in Ireland and Britain, Christians would come together on *All Hallows Eve* to ask for God's blessing and protection from the evil in the world. The source of the modern celebrations stemmed from the donning of saintly and evil spirit costumes to act out the battle between good and evil.



*Altars of the Dead in churches honor family loved ones and friends who have died.*

**'Día de los Muertos,'** is a series of prayerful commemorative days for the faithfully departed. This tradition spread into North America and the United States largely from communities with large Mexican and Latin American populations. This special tribute blends celebrations from across several nations and cultures, and draws upon traditions found in many cultures led by the Mexican community. Families often come together after year long preparations. This is a quiet, colorful and solemn occasion, with few festivities. Participants visit and repair the graves of their dearly departed. It is common to light candles, leave offerings of prepared foods, often a favorite meal, and to pray and play music. Private altars are built as focal points for small, private religious observances. Small parties or prayerful wakes can be held in conjunction with these days. Celebrations can sometimes take a fun or humorous tone if the deceased relative was known to enjoy humor. For more see this **YouTube** video: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=bmUf7ix\\_bag](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bmUf7ix_bag)



**"All Saints Day," November 1<sup>st</sup>.** A celebration of the communion of saints, people we believe are in heaven because of their good works in life and God's grace. We ask all 10,000 'Holy People' from worldwide cultures canonized by the Popes and Catholic Church throughout history, to pray for us in Heaven to God. Online - All Saints Day: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=BApiwgFPs10](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BApiwgFPs10)  
**All Catholic Saints:** [www.catholic.org/saints](http://www.catholic.org/saints)  
**St. Julie Billiart:** [www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint\\_id=297](http://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=297)



**All Souls' Day," November 2<sup>nd</sup>.** We pray for God's mercy and His forgiveness of sins by our loved ones who have died. To remember the departed, many cultures prepare special meals for the souls of the dead, light candles or leave flowers on relatives' graves, and some anoint tombstones with holy water or pour milk over them.

Catholic Online offers a video at:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=oLGwUX8VExo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oLGwUX8VExo)

Each celebration touches on cultural beliefs about the spirit world, honoring the dead and feasts, so when you celebrate Halloween this year, remember to prepare for All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day as well. The Family of God all around the world joins us in special prayers during this time.



*Prayer for Halloween*

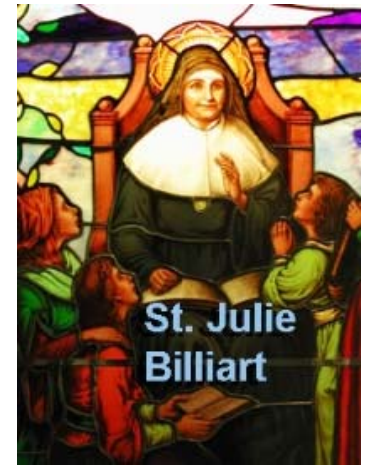
God of Laughter and Joy,  
 We turn to you in the way of our ancient ancestors, grateful for the abundance of food and festivity that surrounds us at this time of year.  
 Keep all children safe as they embark on their Halloween revels.  
 Light their way through the dark night and enfold them in love.  
 May the real treat in their lives be grace that multiplies in depth and breadth as they grow older.  
 We pray this with all the saints in heaven.  
 Amen

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*All Saints' Day*  
November 1

Dear holy saints of God,  
 we join our prayers of praise to yours this day.  
 With you, we sing of God's goodness, rejoice in God's mercy and celebrate God's incredible love.  
 Teach us to live as you lived – always thinking of others, always recognizing our weaknesses, always rejoicing in God's gifts, always closely following Jesus.  
 Blessed are you, happy are you, all you holy saints of God.  
 Pray for us that we, too, may someday be among God's Holy Ones.  
 Amen.



*All Souls' Day*  
November 2

Jesus, dear Savior,  
 on this day we prayerfully remember all our loved ones who have died. Please give them comfort and hope and may they be at peace, knowing that they will rest in God's arms eternally.  
 Thank You for our memories of them and for the good times we shared.  
 We ask You, please, through their intercession, to deepen our faith, strengthen our hope and increase our love that we, too, may someday stand before You, ready to enter Your Holy Kingdom.  
 Amen.

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**Merciful Father,**  
 On this day, we are called to remember those who have died, particularly those who have died in the past year, and pray for their joyful reunion with you, their loving creator.  
 Amen

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ST. JUDE PLEAD FOR US

**Prayer to St. Jude for All Souls**  
 You give me hope, St. Jude, in the face of loss and sorrow. I pray that you will guide all souls to the light of Christ. May the hope that you offer be a source of comfort to all those who grieve. For in that hope and through our faith, we experience God's tender mercy, and trust His promise of eternal life.  
 Stay by my side, St. Jude, so that I may always rely on your care for me. Amen.